

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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72

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-09

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 NIC-01 RSR-01 /148 W  
----- 024694

R 261815 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1277

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 137

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PIN S, NS

SUBJECT: STRIKE SITUATION

REF : PARAMARIBO 129

SUMMARY: NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND UNIONS HAVE NOW  
BROKEN OFF. INDICATIONS ARE THAT GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY  
DECIDED TO SEEK EARLY ELECTIONS BUT MAY HAVE IMPORTANT DETAILS  
TO WORK OUT BEFORE MAKING DECISION AND TIMING PUBLIC.

1. DURING A COURTESY CALL THIS MORNING, FINANCE MINISTER AND  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RADHAKISHUN SAID THAT ANTICIPATED ELECTIONS  
SEEMED THE ONLY WAY OUT OF PRESENT IMPASSE. RADHAKISHUN, WHO

IS WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF PRIME MINISTER SEDNEY MOST  
AUTHORITATIVE FIGURE IN CABINET, INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT  
WANTED TO ASSURE ITSELF THAT IT WOULD NOT BE AT DISADVANTAGE  
DURING ELECTION. HE CITED AS EXAMPLE FACT THAT SCHOOL TEACHERS,  
WHO USUALLY SERVE AS POLL WORKERS, WOULD HAVE TO BE REPLACED  
BY LESS COMMITTED PERSONS. ALSO, ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN ASSUMED,  
UNIONS HAVE NOT YET STATED THEY WOULD SUSPEND STRIKES ONCE  
EARLY ELECTIONS WERE CALLED. COMMENT: OTHER SOURCES  
CONSULTED BELIEVE GOVERNMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO ASSURE ITSELF  
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THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE AS CARETAKER GOVERNMENT DURING PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD. THIS ALSO HAS BEEN ASSUMED, BUT EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT SURINAM POLITICIANS TO BE WARY IN THIS REGARD. IN 1969, THE LATRCUM- STANCES. THIS NEED MIGHT BE ELIMINATED IF EMBASSY COULD SUPPLY SECRETARY AT SITE. IF EMBASSY ANTICIPATES OTHER COSTS, PLS SPECIFY.

4. DELEGATIONS HAVE NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN SELECTED. EDUCATED GUESS WOULD BE SIXTEEN TO TWENTY FOR BILATERAL AND SOMEWHAT LARGER FOR ICNAF. FROM PAST EXPERIENCE FEW ICNAF PARTICIPANTS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE PRESENT FOR FULL TWO WEEKS.

5. PLS NOTE ICNAF PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC MTGS SCHEDULED MAY 22 THROUGH JUNE 2. MUCH SMALLER NUMBER WILL PARTICIPATE AND NO RPT NO EMBASSY SUPPORT FORESEEN. ROGERS

UNCLASSIFIED

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Concepts:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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